thunders bend, spoke with how many fould and strong a bond the child was bound to the father; sir, in a fine, seeing how lothly opposite I stood to his vnnaturall purpose, with fell motion with his prepared sword, he charges home my vnprouided body, launcht mine arme; but when he saw my best alarumd spirits bold in the quarrels right, rouzd to the encounter, or whether gasted by the noise I made, but sodainly he fled.

Glost. Let him flie farre, not in this Land shall he remaine vncaught and found; dispatch, the Noble Duke my master, my worthy Arch and Patron comes to night, by his authority I will proclaime it, that he which findes him shall deserue our thankes, bringing the murderous caytiffe to the stake, he that conceales him, death.

Bast. When I disswaded him from his intent, and found him pight to do it, with curst speech I threatned to discouer him; he replied, Thou vnpossessing bastard, dost thou thinke, if I would stand against thee, could the reposure of any trust, vertue, or worth in thee make thy words faith'd? no: what I should deny, as this I would, I, thogh thou didst produce my very character, ide turne it all to thy suggestion, plot, and damned pretence, and thou must make a dullard of the world, if they not thought the profits of my death were very pregnant and potentiall spurres to make thee seeke it.

Glost. Strong and fastened villaine, would he deny his letter? I neuer got him: harke, the Dukes trumpets, I know not why he comes; all Ports ile barre, the villaine shall not scape, the Duke must grant me that: besides, his picture I wil send far and neere, that all the kingdome may haue note of him, and of my land, (loyall and naturall boy) ile worke the meanes to make thee capable.

Enter the Duke of Cornwall.

Corn. How now my noble friend, since I came hether, which I can call but now, I haue heard strange newes.

Reg. If it be true, all vengeance comes too short which can pursue the offender; how dost my Lord?

Glost. Madam, my old heart is crakt, is crakt.

Reg. What, did my fathers godson seeke your life? he whom my

my father named your *Edgar*?

Glost. I Lady, Lady, shame would haue it hid.

Reg. Was he not companion with the ryotous Knights that tends vpon my father?

Glost. I know not Madam, tis too bad, too bad.

Bast. Yes madam, he was.

Reg. No maruaile then though he were ill affected,
Tis they haue put him on the old mans death,
To haue these——and waste of this his reuenues:
I haue this present euening from my sister
Beene well inform'd of them, and with such cautions,
That if they come to soiourne at my house, ile not be there.

Duke. Nor I, assure thee *Regan*; *Edmund*, I heard that you haue shewne your father a child-like office.

Bast. Twas my duty sir.

Glost. He did betray his practise, and receiued
This hurt you see, striuing to apprehend him.

Duke. Is he pursued?

Glost. I my good Lord.

Duke. If he be taken, he shall neuer more be feard of doing harme, make your owne purpose how in my strength you please; for you *Edmund*, whose vertue and obedience doth this instant so much commend it selfe, you shall be ours, natures of such deep trust, we shall much need, you we first seize on.

Bast. I shall serue you truely, how euer else.

Glost. For him I thanke your Grace.

Duke. You know not why we came to visite you?

Regan. Thus out of season, threatning darke eide night,
Occasions noble *Gloceſter* of some prize,
Wherein we must haue vse of your aduice,
Our father he hath writ, so hath our sister,
Of defences, which I best thought it fit,
To answer from our hand, the seuerall messengers
From hence attend dispatch, our good old friend,
Lay comforts to your bosome, & bestow your needfull counsell
To our businesse, which craues the instant vse.

Exit.
Glost.